



Transportation Update

February 2002

CMA Responds to CTC Request to Reschedule Projects

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has asked the regions throughout the State to review the timing of projects submitted for the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Very little revenue is available to accommodate new projects in the first two years of the STIP – 2002-03 and 03-04. In response to the request, at its February meeting, the CMA Board adopted a revised program of projects for the 2002 STIP. No projects were deleted but several projects were moved to later years.

This rescheduling of projects could result in higher construction costs due to inflation. CMA staff will be working with project sponsors and the CTC to advance projects to their original schedules where possible. For further information please contact the CMA offices.

Air Quality and Transportation

An air quality “conformity lapse” in the Bay Area occurred on January 21, 2002. The U.S. EPA has since approved the Bay Area’s motor vehicle emissions budget for use in the air quality conformity determination of the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan. The budget is effective 15 days after publication in the Federal Register. After MTC approves the conformity determination (expected on March 15th) and the Federal Highway Administration acts on this determination, the conformity lapse will be lifted and those affected transportation projects will be able to proceed. Some environmental groups have threatened to seek an injunction to stop

the EPA approval from becoming final. If the injunction is granted, further project delays are possible. The CMA’s January newsletter lists the Alameda County projects affected. For further information, please contact the CMA offices.

Transit Funds Jeopardized by Board of Equalization Ruling

A recent action by the California Board of Equalization could cause a sharp reduction in funds available for transit operations through the Public Transit Account. The PTA is funded through sales taxes. In the view of many Legislators, the Board has gone too far in interpreting a bill from last year that afforded an exemption from sales taxes for certain agricultural transport activities. The CMA Chair has sent a letter requesting the Board to reject the proposed regulation and return to the Legislature’s intent. Legislation has also been introduced to rectify the problem. If the Board of Equalization’s regulation is allowed to stand, Alameda County transit operators will lose funding as shown below:

- BART -- \$1.4 million per year
- AC Transit – nearly \$800,000 per year
- LAVTA -- \$9000 per year
- Union City Transit -- \$2000 per year

For additional information on this matter, please call the CMA offices.

CMA Agrees to Assist MTC in Lawsuit

At its February meeting, the CMA considered a letter from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority requesting assistance in filing declarations and possibly an *amicus curae* brief supporting MTC in a

case relating to Transportation Control Measure 2 (TCM 2). TCMs are intended to reduce air pollution from motor vehicles. TCM 2 is one of nearly forty measures and was first included in the Bay Area's 1982-3 air quality plan. This measure called for certain investments in transit with the goal of increasing transit ridership by 15%. All investments have been made, but ridership has not increased by the identified percentage. The litigants claim that the goal is a mandate, which has not been reached, and MTC must take steps to increase ridership by 15%. Because this lawsuit may have far reaching implications for the CMA's programs, the Board agreed to provide assistance as requested by CCTA. For additional information on this matter, please call the CMA offices.

Project "At Risk" Report Available

The CMA's quarterly "At Risk" report is available. This report shows the status of projects and indicates which projects need attention in order to meet the state and federal deadlines. Copies are available from the CMA offices.

Legislation

Over 50 bills relating to transportation have been introduced in the State Legislature this year. CMA staff is reviewing the bills and will recommend positions to the Board at future meetings. For additional information on pending legislation please contact the CMA offices.

Deadlines to Note

CMA Transportation Improvement Program
\$16 million remains to be programmed. Projects in the CMA's adopted Group II list will again be considered for funding in April 2002. Sponsors wishing to have their Group II projects considered in April must submit documentation to the CMA by March 15th.

Federal Funding Programs – Delivery Deadlines
Projects programmed with Cycle II TEA-21 funds must have obligated these funds by September 30, 2002. Failure to comply with this deadline could result in the loss of funds programmed to the project. Sponsors with projects that may have problems with this deadline should contact CMA staff immediately.

Upcoming Meetings

March	5	CMA Technical Advisory Committee
	8	I-580 Corridor Policy Advisory Committee
	11	CMA Administration & Legislation Committee
	11	CMA Plans & Programs Committee
	tbd	I-880 Corridor Steering Committee
	18	Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) Board
	28	CMA Board Meeting
April	2	CMA Technical Advisory Committee
	3/4	CTC (Sacramento)
	8	CMA Administration & Legislation Committee
	8	CMA Plans & Programs Committee
	11	San Pablo Ave Policy Advisory Committee
	12	Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) Board
	tbd	I-580 Corridor Policy Advisory Committee
	tbd	I-680 Corridor Policy Advisory Committee
	25	CMA Board Meeting

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